

Dear Chairs Lemar and Haskell, Vice Chairs Cassano and Sims, and Ranking Members Carney and Somers, and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Timothy Gabriele. I am a resident of North Haven, CT and I am writing in support of SB-4 An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clear Air Act.

The latest report (February 28<sup>th</sup>. 2022) released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) outlines an unfathomable future in which humanity and nature will be unable to adapt and new normal of coastal flooding, massive fires, and famines displace millions if aggressive steps are not taken to combat climate change. The report conducted by scientists and researchers from across 67 countries calls this “an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership”. Underfunded pensions, tolls, gas taxes, and millionaire migration will be the least of Connecticut’s worries if current trends persist.

Bill SB-4, by contrast, is a modest environmental move, incorporating some green logic into its modernization proposal. It suggests a few, limited, relatively risk-free and common sense changes that will both fix issues within CT’s infrastructure, improve air quality, and stop our reliance on fossil fuels mainly through incentive structures. These include rebate structures for electric vehicle purchases and e-bikes, with a progressive structure to counter the electric vehicle industry’s high prices that discourage making such vehicles available to CT’s working class, as well as updates to the state’s traffic lights and school buses to put them in line with lowered carbon goals. It also requires new development to offset their greenhouse gas emissions with mitigation projects.

While it’s willfully naïve to think that market solutions alone will get us out of this bind, any change that pushes us closer to a green future is welcome. The American Lung Association has rated 6 out of 8 Connecticut counties an “F” for high ozone days. Over the past year we’ve seen fish washing up on shore from excessive rain, massive snowstorms and tornadoes knocking out power for days at a time, songbirds dropping dead from infectious disease and flooding washing homes out into Long Island Sound, right here in CT. With no major climate bills being passed in 2021 or 2020 and with the TCI project being delayed, Connecticut is far from being the climate leader it needs to be. It’s to ramp up and multiply projects like SB-4 to match the aggressive pace climate change is having on our environment.

I hope the committee and Connecticut lawmakers agree that SB-4 deserves your support. I thank the committee for their time.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Gabriele  
North Haven, CT